

SITUATION REPORT NO. 11
INCIDENT NO. 97-003
DATE: January 22, 1997 TIME: 12:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Winter storms and blizzard conditions statewide.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: A blizzard warning was in effect on January 22 for the far eastern third of North Dakota, where blowing snow was reducing visibility and causing concern that cleared roads would once again fill with snow. Strong winds, combined with temperatures in the single digits, were producing wind chills of 40 to 60 below.

Because of heavy snow and reduced visibility, the N.D. Highway Patrol has closed the eastbound and westbound lanes of I-94, from Jamestown to Fargo, the eastbound and westbound lanes of I-29, from the Canadian line to South Dakota border, and U.S. 2, from Lakota to Grand Forks.

Because of blizzard conditions on January 22, the N.D. National Guard suspended snow removal operations in the eastern part of the state.

As a result of the storm, schools in eastern North Dakota have delayed or canceled classes. Some schools have canceled classes as many as eight times because of winter storm conditions.

The January 22 storm stranded a basketball team in Lakota, where 50 parents and team members stayed overnight at the high school gym.

During an Agriculture Snow Emergency Task Force meeting on January 21, the N.D. Agriculture Statistics Service reported that cattle deaths have been assessed at 32 percent above normal statewide. The average cattle death rate is 1 to 2 percent. Farmers and ranchers are having difficulty feeding their cattle because of feed shortages and feed accessibility. Other contributing factors include extremely cold temperatures and wind chills. Farm buildings have collapsed on livestock, injuring or killing animals. Long-term concerns for farmers and ranchers include cows aborting calves, potential light calf weaning weights and cow fertility in the 1997 breeding season.

The Statistics Service also reported that 43 percent of livestock feed is difficult to access, 15 percent inaccessible and 42 percent readily accessible.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management reported that 5 percent of county roads and 16 percent of township roads are still closed. Continued drifting by shifting winds or high wind speeds remains a major concern.

The N.D. Game and Fish Department received 493 reports by January 22 of deer depredation of livestock feed supplies. Food sources for deer are limited by snow depth and the severity of the winter. Hence, the deer have been feeding and damaging livestock feed supplies. The Game and Fish Department anticipates spending \$600,000 to alleviate deer depredation to livestock feed supplies.

North Dakota's municipal airports are struggling to keep runways open for emergency medical services, exhausting snow removal budgets and incurring additional costs for equipment rental, fuel and over time hours for personnel. The N.D. Aeronautics Commission reported that 46 airports provide emergency medical services. Examples are as follows: one Bismarck operator has more than 30 flights per month scheduled to transport physicians to satellite clinics throughout the state; three ambulance flights occurred on January 19 at the Watford City Municipal Airport; and a Bismarck doctor has flown his personal aircraft on two separate occasions to perform cesarean sections.

Since January 14, the Division of Emergency Management and the N.D. Department of Agriculture have received 86 citizen inquiries. Primary concerns include: snow removal; livestock feed access; milk dumping; collapsed buildings; livestock losses; and livestock feed shortage.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The Burleigh-Morton Chapter of the American Red Cross has offered emergency mass care assistance to representatives of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, who are currently evaluating the needs of residents. The Red Cross has collected 118 blankets to distribute to residents of the reservation.

The Red River Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross has arranged for meals for 50 parents and members of a basketball team who were stranded in Lakota during the January 22 blizzard.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Two search and rescue missions were underway January 22 in Pembina County for two motorists. One traveler was headed for Park River, and the other for

Bathgate.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Mobile Emergency Response System arrived January 21 to set up communications and computer systems. As previously reported, state response operations will continue at the State Emergency Operations Center located at Fraine Barracks.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) has 90 road crews working throughout the state to clear county and state transportation systems. The crews, ranging in size from two to five employees, are working extended hours to ensure access. In addition, the N.D. DOT assigned two seven-ton snow plows to bolster snow removal efforts in Griggs County. Three snow blowers have been assigned to Barnes, Griggs and Foster. In order to maintain public access on state highways, the N.D. DOT district offices are hiring private contractors to clear ditches of drifts.

The N.D. National Guard completed 15 missions and initiated four others on January 21. The National Guard presently has 27 missions underway in 19 counties. Eight of these missions are staffed by U.S. Air Force personnel and/or equipment. Of the four new missions, two dozers, two tractor-trailers and one support vehicle were transported to Griggs County after crews completed work in Adams County. Foster County snow removal efforts received additional support after crews in Kidder County moved four dozers, three tractor-trailers and two support vehicles. Another crew, which had completed work in Foster County, transferred four dump trucks and one front-end loader to Eddy County. When the National Guard completed the mission in Ransom County, two dozers, two tractor-trailers and two support vehicles were transferred to McIntosh County. Military snow removal efforts are staffed by 141 Army Guard, 18 Air Guard and 24 Air Force personnel. County requests for new missions have increased to 14.

The cities of Jamestown, Medina, Montpelier, Pingree, Sanborn, Sheyenne, Spiritwood Lake, Streeter and Woodworth have issued Emergency or Disaster Declarations. Since the start of the storms, 51 counties, 24 cities and three Indian Reservations have issued declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports and photos of snow removal efforts are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director